

# Introduction

## LIFE IN CHRIST

Week of April 10, 2016

Life in Christ • Ephesians 1 • Message 1

*Our mission: to help people discover life in Christ.*

Over the next few weeks, we will be studying the book of Ephesians because it is a book that describes what "Life in Christ" is really all about. As we study, pay attention to all the times the phrase "in Christ" or "through Christ" shows up.

### **INTRODUCTION: Ephesians 1:1-2**

Modern versions say "in Ephesus" in verse 1, but the oldest texts we have leave those words out. Many scholars think the address was left blank because this letter was to circulate to many churches. What do you think about that?

What stands out to you from these first two verses?

### **Exciting Doctrine: Verses 3-14**

Paul is pretty excited about the doctrinal truths he mentions here. There are at least three general truths that he is trying to promote. Let's discuss them each.

- Being in Christ gives us "every spiritual blessing." What are some of the "spiritual blessings" that Paul mentions?
- Being in Christ gives us knowledge of God's secret plan. What does Paul say that plan is? What do you think about that?
- Being in Christ gives us a guaranteed future. What do you think about that?

According to these verses, how does a person get to be "in Christ"?

### **An Encouraging Prayer: Verses 15-23**

What do you notice in Paul's prayer? Does any part of his prayer duplicate what he has already talked about?

What does it mean to you that God's secret plan is to bring everything to unity under Christ and that the church is the body of Christ?

### **Take it Home**

On Sunday, I mentioned two points of application from Ephesians 1, and both of them relate to how we think about ourselves.

1. If I'm in Christ, then what is true of him is true of me.
2. If I am in Christ, then I am linked with every other person who is in Christ.

What do you think about those statements? How true are they?

Finally, at the end of my message on Sunday, I talked about the importance of Christian unity—it's God's ultimate plan, and the church is supposed to be Christ's body—but we live in a world with many churches and many different opinions on the Bible. What do you think Christian unity means for our world today?

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